

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-13 and 15-18 are pending. No new subject matter has been added to the specification.

The subject matter of original claims 6 and 14 were added, respectively, to claims 1 and 11, resulting in allowable independent claims 1 and 11 as noted in item #6 of the Nov. 4, 2004 Office Action. The remaining pending claims are allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Claims 1-5 and 19-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over On et al. (US 6,175,428) in view of Bradley et al. (US 6,466,328). Claims 11-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Bradley et al. in view of Ariga (US 6,415,331). Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Bradley et al. in view of Ariga, and further in view of On et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed by the amendments to the claims.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon has been reviewed but is not considered material to the patentability of the invention.

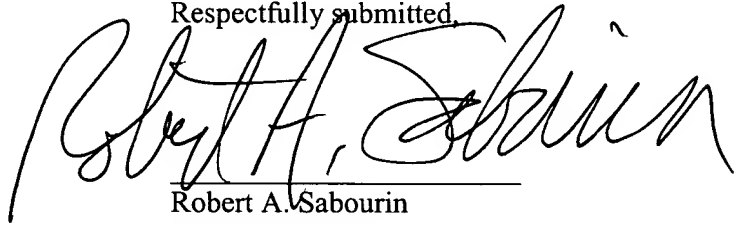
A Submission of Formal Drawings and Figures 1, 2 and 3 are attached.

No fees are due with this response. However, if an error has been made in the fee calculations, please charge any excess fees due and credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3377 under this general authorization.

It should be noted that the above arguments are directed towards certain patentable distinctions between the claims and the prior art cited. However, the patentable distinctions between the pending claims and the prior art cited are not necessarily limited to those discussed above.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, it is respectfully submitted that each rejection of the Office Action has been addressed and overcome so that this application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application, withdraw the rejections and/or objections, and pass the application to issue. Should questions arise during examination, the Examiner is welcome to contact the applicant's attorney as listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Sabourin", written over a horizontal line.

Robert A. Sabourin
Reg. No. 35,344

Agfa Corporation
Law & Patent Department
200 Ballardvale Street
Wilmington, MA. 01887-1069

Tel: 978-284-5604

RAS/pc